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OLL 83-2073/1
1 September 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: A New Retirement System to Supplement Social
Security Coverage for Employees Hired
1 January 1984 or Later

REFERENCE: MFR (OLL 83-2073) dated 1 September 1983,
Same Subject

1. During the course of our 31 August 1983 meeting with Mr. James S. Cowen, Majority Special Counsel to the Subcommittee on Civil Service, Post Office, and General Services of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, as indicated in the Reference, Mr. Cowen provided the Governmental Affairs Committee legislative agenda for the next eighteen months or so, for the subject legislation.

2. As indicated in the Governmental Affairs press release of 5 August (copy attached), the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs has initiated a fact-finding program that will ultimately lead to introduction of new supplemental retirement plans for Federal employees. The Committee on Governmental Affairs has tasked the General Accounting Office (GAO) and the Congressional Research Service (CRS) with providing substantive assistance. At my request, Mr. Cowen made available to me a copy of the tasking letter and proposed substantive outline that the Committee on Governmental Affairs issued to the GAO.

3. The GAO has been tasked with performing a detailed and extensive survey of private sector retirement plans in medium and large-size companies. This GAO effort is estimated to take 12 months. Upon receiving the results of this extensive GAO effort, the Committee will provide same to CRS which will, over a five month or so period, develop a range of alternatives (five to seven) that the Committee can choose from in drafting proposed supplemental retirement legislation.

4. Concurrent with both of these efforts, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) will be performing detailed financial and economic studies that will be used by the Committee in selecting the benefit levels that will be included in its draft legislation.

5. Having accomplished these efforts, the Committee anticipates holding extensive hearings in the Fall of 1984 with a goal of introducing legislation in early 1985.

6. Mr. Cowen also indicated that Governmental Affairs plans to sponsor a half-dozen or so discussion forums on Federal sector pensions. These forums are intended both to elicit information for Committee use and to communicate, in an educational sense, information concerning public sector pensions to public sector employees.

7. I will follow up this 31 August meeting with Mr. Cowen on a regular basis in the weeks and months to come.

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Liaison Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Attachments
As Stated

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LD/OLL: [redacted] (1 September 1983)

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